[6th September 1928

11-30 a.m. Mr. K. V. R. Swami :—" Will the hon. Minister suggest to the Government that this should be made a proper item of expenditure ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" It is perfectly open to the hon. Member to move an amendment to the Act for the purpose."

Mr. S. Satyamurti :—" May I know whether the Minister proposes to ask the Finance Member to budget for the next year's excise revenue less by two or three lakhs with a view to give effect to the propaganda ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Such a proposal has not yet been made because the whole scheme is just being thought out. If necessary, the next step will be taken."

Instructions issued by the Public Health Department regarding anti-drink propaganda.

*179 Q.—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether any and if so, what instructions have been issued to the Public Health Department to carry on propaganda against the drink evil ?

A.—The Government have permitted the Officers of the Public Health Department to draw attention in their lectures to the effects of intoxicants on the human body and to the evil results on health of an excessive use of them.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the Government propose to ask the Public Health Department to do active propaganda to educate the people on the evils of drink ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The Public Health Department is, I believe, already doing it, and probably when the Government undertakes the scheme under contemplation, the Health Department would do more propaganda work."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju :—" May I know whether the hon. the Minister expects the Health Department only to point out to the people that excessive drinking is bad ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" There are some who are great drunkards. There are others who are moderate drinkers. It will be possible to do something with the moderate drinkers. It will not be possible to do anything with the other class of people."

Mr. P. C. Venkatapathi Raju :—" What about the evil effects of the drink ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Certainly I may assure the hon. Member that these health officers doing propaganda work will not advise the people to take it and will not say it is good."

Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapathi Mudaliyar :—" Apart from the public health point of view, will the health officers be prevented from giving lectures on the economic side of the question ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" They will not be prevented."